The

GRADES Training Manual

Level 1 | Fundamentals of Da'wah

Note: The material contained herein is free; to be used, copied or distributed for the purpose of giving Da'wah.

Go Earn Your **G-R-A-D-E-S**

Version Control

Published / Revised	Version	Author	Section / Nature of Change	Date of Change
Baseline	1.0	“	Baseline version for distribution	12/10/12
Published	2.0	“	Worldwide Publication	25/01/13
Revised	2.1	“	Revised Edition	06/09/13
Revised	2.2	“	Independent Publication	04/11/13

In the name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful.

[All] praise is [due] to Allah, Lord of the worlds -

The Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful,

Sovereign of the Day of Recompense

It is You we worship and You we ask for help.

Guide us to the straight path -

The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favour, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.

Editors Note: Da'wah is an obligation. Therefore a duty enjoined upon us all. We are required to **convey** the message of Tawhid – that Allah alone is worthy of worship and of the final messenger, the Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) and **invite** the Non-Muslim to accept Islam. Be polite and empathetic towards your audience, as a Muslim you are representing Islam. Da'wah is not a debate on world affairs, politics, the science of Fiqh or about answering every Islamic question or query someone may ask. The key is to re-route all conversations, queries and debates towards Tawhid of Allah. What is presented here is one such method of doing that; following a path and staying focused on the objective. Ultimately, this is practical work and will come with dedicated practice.

'Ali bin Abu Talib (Allah be pleased with him) said**: "Narrate to people what they can understand; do you want Allah and His Messenger to be disbelieved?"** (Sahîh Al-Bukhârî - Chapter about a person preferring some people with certain knowledge to the exclusion of others).

Contents

Introduction 5

The concept of World View 5

Golden Rule 6

Get Out Of Jail Card 7

Da'wah – Who, What, Why and How? 7

The Methodology 10

Initiation 12

GRADES 14

G – God 14

R – Revelation 16

A – Agents 22

D – Death 27

E – Eternity 28

S – Shahada 29

Common Contentions 31

What about Evolution? 31

Where does Jesus fit in all this? 31

I don't need God in my Life...Besides where is the proof? 35

Could we argue that the Creator is "One" from a purely logical perspective? 35

Why is there so much suffering in the world? 36

Just because science doesn't have an answer it doesn't mean we need religion? 36

Wasn't the Quran copied from earlier sources? 37

Why don't Muslims behave the way you show Islam? 38

Wait a minute...Isn't the universe eternal? 39

Why not accept all religions as they all teach good things...Or take the best from each? 39

What's in it for you? 39

Appendix 41

A brief view on World Religions 41

Flow charts 44

GRADES in a Nutshell 47

Introduction

Before we go into the body of the method there are some things that every Da'ee (Islamic Preacher) should appreciate. These are a series of simple principles which should help shape our outlook from a psychological perspective and are an important prerequisite when embarking into the field of Da'wah.

The concept of World View

The way we, as Muslims, see the world is different to the way non-Muslims see the world. Not just from a theological perspective but from a psychological perspective as well. Without a concept of God, or sometimes, even with it, the non-Muslim view can **often** (there are exceptions to this) be considered a pursuit of pleasures and a fulfilling of desires. Therefore, if something makes me happy or leads to me experiencing a state of satisfaction (however fleeting) then that is a good thing.

This concept is known by the term Hedonism - a school of thought that suggests that pleasure is the only inherent good. It promotes that psychologically, we all do in fact pursue pleasure and that ethically, mankind should do everything in its power to obtain the greatest amount of pleasure possible throughout the course of one's life. Therefore, a hedonist aims to find pleasure; as much, and wherever, he may find it.

The issue, however, is that someone's pleasure may indeed result in another's pain – **it's all subjective;** so who has the overall say? – Clearly humans cannot as there is inherent bias in this.

The Muslim's World View is that of Islam**:**

The Tawhid of Allah (SWT) – That nothing is worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) is the slave and messenger of Allah.

Therefore what Allah and His prophet (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) command; we do, and what they forbid; we refrain from – regardless of whether we see the wisdom in the command (or not) and regardless of whether there is a sense of pleasure derived.

Hence we often say that we are seeing the world in one colour while the Non-Muslim is seeing it in another. What we mean is that they cannot grasp our outlook on life until they have an appreciation of the Divine. As a result simply jumping to Sharia, or world civilisation or technological advancements is not necessarily the best strategy to use to highlight Islam as supreme. This approach shifts emphasis away from a Creator towards creation, where: they are being impressed by some laws and unimpressed by others or seeing the advancements of early civilisations of Muslims and then relating those to advancements made by people of other faiths today.

Therefore the basis of their belief is on some **created** aspect as opposed to that of the **Creator**. So they see something in Islam (or done by Muslims) they like, they become Muslim; but if they see

something else they like in another religion, they lean towards that. This is because the Non-Muslim cannot appreciate the Law until he has an appreciation of the Creator of that Law.

Note however, that by the same token we must be empathetic to their view; put yourself in their position and imagine how it must be for them approaching Islam in light of all the propaganda against it. Empathy is the source of effective Da'wah – your concern for the welfare of humanity as a whole. Think of the Prophet Muhammad (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) when he visited Ta'if. He was given the opportunity to retaliate but he chose not to; instead he prayed that Islam would one day flourish amongst the descendants of the people of this city.

As a general rule, if a person agrees to the existence of a Creator and agrees to the existence of His Word then he will naturally accept what that Creator dictates. **Hence the need for a God centred approach to Da'wah.**

Golden Rule

Allah Guides the hearts - our job is to **convey the message and invite to Islam**; Allah is the one who **converts their state.**

C-O-N-V-E-Y & **C-O-N-V-E-R-T**

These are two words that are very similar in structure but worlds apart in meaning. Allah has commanded us to convey the message and therefore through His Justice and Mercy given us the ability to do so. He did not command us to convert nor did He give anyone the power to do so. The power to convert He kept to Himself – so no one has any share in that.

Once you fully understand the implications of this point, the cause of much of the despair that you may experience, during the course of conveying the message, will fade away. Consequently, even when you present the most compelling reasons to justify and highlight how belief in Allah makes absolute sense and are met with hostile and nonsensical responses; you appreciate that you have done your part and you are **content** with leaving the guidance in the hands of Allah.

To highlight this point consider the following verses:

"And [even] if We opened to them a gate from the heaven and they continued therein to ascend, They would say, "Our eyes have only been dazzled. Rather, we are a people affected by magic."" (Noble Quran 15:14-15)

Therefore when we fully understand this point we realise that Shahada counts are not the appropriate way in which we can assess our development or abilities when giving Da'wah. Hence we need more appropriate Key Performance Indicators (KPI's).

More appropriate KPI examples include:

- No. of conversations
- Feedback from Converts or those that didn't
- Feedback from your team (confidence levels, ability to convey)
- Reliability (Mean Time Between Failure) – out every week for past 6 months without fail
- Many more....

Get Out Of Jail Card

If you ever find yourself confused, or baffled by argument or your mind suddenly becomes blank – simply state that: "**I only wish to convey that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah alone and that Muhammad (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) is the slave and messenger of Allah and would like to invite you to accept Islam**. " Do this, and you will have achieved your aim of conveying the message. Win-Win situation!

Da'wah – Who, What, Why and How?

One of the most important things to understand is that Da'wah is an obligation as commanded by Allah in the Qur'an so it is not something which can be ignored or brushed aside as a supererogatory act. We find in the Qur'an the command from Allah:

"Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided." (Noble Quran 16:125)

So one may wonder as to what the reward for such work may well be; well it's important to note that this work of Da'wah was actually the work of the most blessed of creatures to walk the Earth – The Prophets (AS). Therefore to take part in the type of work they undertook is in and of itself an extremely noble and worthy cause. However Allah quantifies the status, before Him, of the one who undertakes this noble work:

"And who is better in speech than one who invites to Allah and does righteousness and says, "Indeed, I am of the Muslims"." (Noble Quran 41:33)

So having an appreciation of the obligation of the work and the esteemed rank of the one who undertakes it, a natural question may arise in the mind of the Da'ee – **Am I qualified to give Da'wah, since I'm neither a scholar of religion nor a master of Arabic?**

To answer this question we need look no further than the blessed saying of the prophet Muhammad (salallahu alayhi wa sallam):

***"Convey from me, even one verse."* (Sahih Bukhari).**

Here we are clearly being instructed to convey, and to at least convey a single ayah that you know. It is acceptable to appreciate that all Muslims, at least know Surah Al-Fatiha that they recite in every prayer or even less than that, is the Shahada – the declaration of faith. One of the hidden beauties of giving Da'wah is that it naturally develops a desire to want to study the religion more deeply. This does two things:

1. It makes you more knowledgeable on the commands and prohibition of the Deen – improving the quality of your worship.

2. In the course of studying Da'wah and hence the religion you develop an appreciation of why only Islam is worthy of being the true religion from Allah. This increases Iman.

***To clarify we neither encourage nor is it acceptable that you begin to discuss religious matters that you neither understand nor fully appreciate –** indeed this would be detrimental to you and to the one whom you are conveying to; hence the need for a structured and methodical system which you can use from the outset and can build on as your knowledge increases.

Now having understood why we should and must give Da'wah, we can look at the "flip side of the coin"...What If I don't give Da'wah? Again, the words from the Quran are best suited to highlight the severity of such an unfortunate situation:

"Indeed, those who conceal what We sent down of clear proofs and guidance after We made it clear for the people in the Scripture - those are cursed by Allah and cursed by those who curse," (Noble Quran 2:159)

However if you rectify your position, which one should do immediately, and actively take part according to our capacity; Allah states in the very next verse:

"Except for those who repent and correct themselves and make evident [what they concealed]. Those - I will accept their repentance, and I am the Accepting of repentance, the Merciful." (Noble Quran 2:160)

Moving on, we need to have an understanding of **Etiquettes**, which for the most part are common in all walks of life – but nevertheless are an integral part of the arsenal of the Da'ee. They can be broadly categorized as those of a psychological and those of a physical nature.

Psychological

- Sincerity – Intending the pleasure of Allah and fulfilling the obligation. It is not to debate people, simply answer questions or look good.

- Empathy – What has made people become inattentive to their Lord? Step into their shoes and see what they see.

- Pleasure – I am actually out in the path of Allah as a Da'ee. The feeling of contentment and submission to the will of Allah.

Physical

- Interpersonal Skills – Body language, tone of voice, eye contact.
- Organisation – Prepared for the work at hand, developed a strategy for success.
- Materials - Read up on what you are providing the audience – selectively choosing the most appropriate for their individual needs.

You may wonder based on the aforementioned and what you have come to know as Da'wah **- is Da'wah simply street Da'wah?** The answer is No. Street Da'wah can be described as Da'wah 101, in so much that at its essence; it is a direct reminder to mankind – achieved through direct conversation. It is indeed one of, if not the most difficult forms of Da'wah since it is unrehearsed and unscripted – the environment you are in and the people you may meet can be extremely varied. However the skills you develop here will serve you well throughout the many forms of Da'wah that you find yourself engaged in, over the course of your life. Therefore, for this reason, it is highly encouraged from the outset.

There are in contrast other avenues through which one can give Da'wah; however at the heart of every activity one **must** understand that Da'wah is:

Calling to Tawhid (oneness of Allah) and calling to accept the prophet Muhammad (salallaho alayhi wa sallam) as the final prophet.

It is not simply conducting or partaking in the following:

- Nasheed Concerts
- Good manners
- Exhibitions on Islamic civilisations
- Cultural events
- Mosque open days – Face painting, henna, balloons, bouncy castles

It is only Da'wah when inextricably linked to calling people to Allah and His Messenger (salallho Alayhi wa sallam)

The Da'ee must understand that before they make the call to humanity, they themselves know what they are calling to – and this should be something the prospect can appreciate without bias based on their upbringing or misconceptions on religion. So when asked regarding what you invite to, by a

prospect, one may resort to linguistic or literal translations such as: Peace, Submission, Worship or Religion.

However in this context we need to use a more profound definition which includes the aforementioned but is also readily understood by the prospect. Therefore a more appropriate definition is to say that you invite the prospect to have:

"A unique relationship between you and the Creator, after knowing who that Creator is and in a manner that the Creator prescribes"

The approach or method you undertake to perform Da'wah naturally depends on a variety of factors:

Time – Place – Audience – Resources – Expertise

Therefore the best methods are those which:

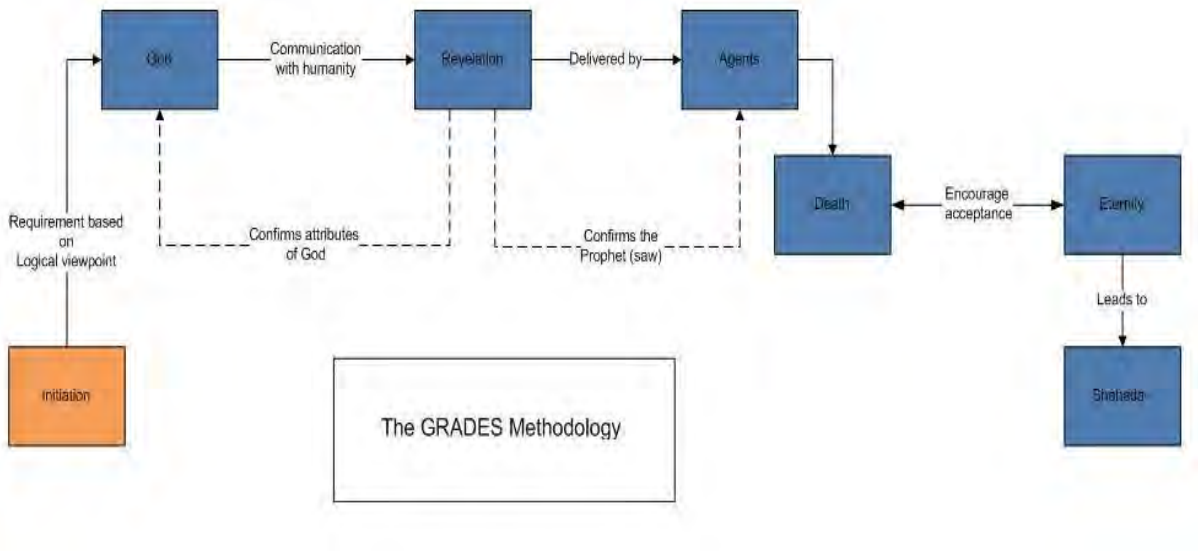
- Can be used on the majority of people.
- Can be adapted to time available.
- Can be done anywhere.
- Expertise… Can you speak English?

The Methodology

One such Method is the GRADES methodology. The method seeks to streamline unnecessary debate while at the same time stabilising and structuring the aims and objectives from the outset. It acts as a **roadmap** and therefore in any given time and place, allows the Da'ee to analyse where they are and what they need to do in order to get to the destination.

GRADES stand for:

- **G**OD
- **R**EVELATION
- **A**GENTS
- **D**EATH
- **E**TERNITY
- **S**HAHADA

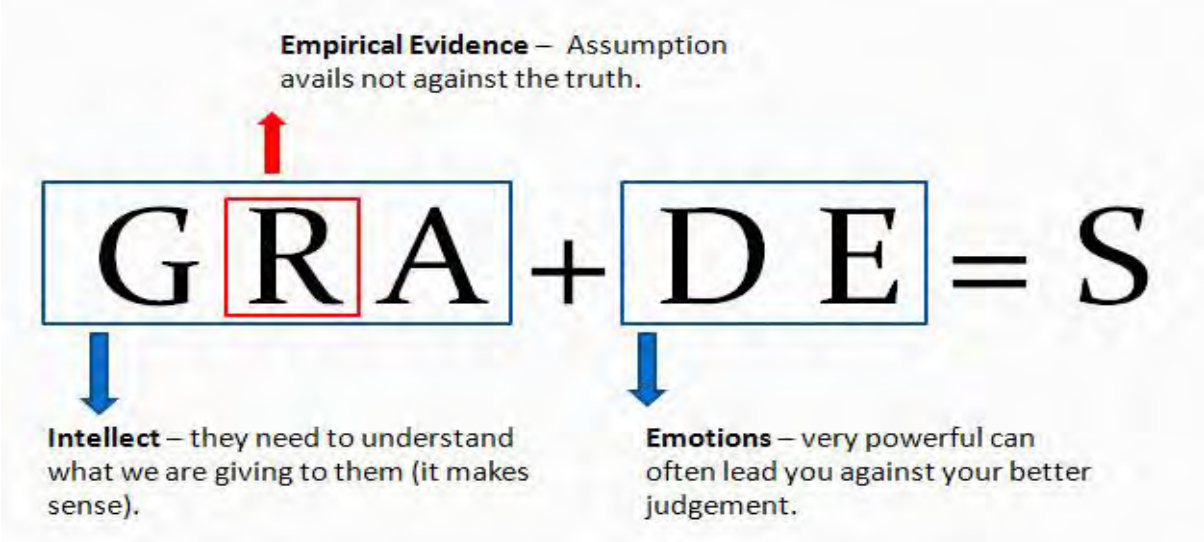


One could ask – **WHY GRADES? Why not some other acronym or approach or method?** The answer is simple: Yes there are many other methods and approaches but there is reasoning and justification for selecting this approach, some of which will be highlighted below:

- It calls to God (specifically) Tawhid first.
- Allows one to establish a firm foundation.
- Explains the essence of Islam.
- Uses reason, logic and employs emotions then backs all these up with empirical evidence.
- Avoids political issues and World Affairs
- Reduces the chances of unnecessary debate or question-answer approaches to Da'wah.

There are also the subtleties of the system which become evident on closer inspection. A good system should employ an intellectual foundation based on rationale and logic as we readily accept things that make sense to us. It should also employ the emotional factor – feelings of hope, love and desire to gain as well as fear of loss and punishment since emotions are very powerful and can often overpower the intellect. Thus by targeting both – it therefore appeals to the soul (spiritual, non-physical parts of man).

As Humans, we are not merely rational, logical individuals hence robot-like nor are we simply emotional creatures like animals. We possess both features, so a good system should exploit both of these. However above all the theories and conjecture is the manifest truth - The Quran; which appeals to the soul and forms the empirical evidence that backs up everything we claim since assumption doesn't avail anyone when it comes up against the truth.



Initiation

Initiation by them: - They ask a question?

You smile / shake hands / ask their name (all 3 or just 1 whichever is feasible).

Then you Answer: (smiling) that's a really good question and I'm glad you asked me that. Now for me to answer your question you need to understand the basics of Islam. Do you have time for me to explain it? (Use their name/smile).

If they say No then give them some information leaflets to ponder over and state: "**I only wish to convey that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah and that the prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) is his slave and messenger and would like to invite you to accept Islam."**

NOTE: If they do have time then continue the process – **Research and public opinion seems to suggest that, in any given scenario, you need to wrap up your points in 5 - 15 minutes. Now that may not seem long; but for a random pedestrian it will be – The secret is getting to the point (which comes with practice). We have however tried to list as many arguments as possible in this handbook and leave it to the Da'ee to select as appropriate.**

Initiation by you: - What do you think is the purpose of life? Or is life just a game? Or how do you think the universe came into existence? Do you believe in God?

Listen to their reply and make mental note of this person's opinion (this is a key element in being concise).

First try to get them agree to a 'universal truth' – research suggests that if people will agree with you on one point, they are more likely to listen to what you have to say. Therefore, you can use things like: agreeing a circle is unlike a square or ask them to agree that a square has for sides or a triangle has three points or even the fact that if I had a full bottle of water, removed the lid and turned the bottle upside down – the water would empty from the bottle – Get an agreement from them.

Then – use either of the following examples:

The man in the red underpants – You hear the doorbell ring at 2 o' Clock in the Morning. You approach and answer the door to find a man dressed in red underpants (Or a penguin suit if females feel embarrassed to used such an example). He says that he's from the gas board and wishes to check your gas meter. Do you let him in?
They would almost always say: No
However they may say: Yes (absurd – this person seems insincere and may be here just to argue).
But they argue: he could be?
You: Yes, he could be but would you really take the chance?
They say: No.
You: Why Not?
They: Since he's not dressed properly, no uniform, no gas meter reader, time of the night.

Or

Something can't come out of nothing - You wake up to find a parrot in your room? Clearly we don't accept that it just appeared – somewhere along the line it entered/ was placed either through the window or via the door; by someone or flew in. It's not acceptable to suggest it just appeared!

Then
Ask them what faculties they used to make these agreements (a combination of): common sense, rationality, experience, logic?

Then inform them that as humans we make hundreds and thousands of these decisions/ judgments every single day so why should we accept anything else when it comes to religion. Get them to agree to this very simple concept.

If they **AGREE** to any of these examples then

---

*use this agreement as the basis of discussion and keep referring to this agreement if they try to sway from rational common sense.

Then say "consider this" (***and go earn your GRADES***).

<This now leads us to the use of the GRADES approach>

GRADES

G – God

Key points: Introduce the creator by using the Kalaam cosmological & teleological arguments. We all appreciate that something can't come out of nothing! So we start with the biggest example there is, the Universe!

Give the examples of how the world came into existence – they may already accept the Big Bang Theory and it seems to be the most plausible explanation to how the Universe began. Hence give them 3 alternatives. Ask the prospect:

1. **Did the Universe create itself** – has anything ever created itself? Can we exist and not exist at the same time? Or, can a Mother give birth to herself?
2. **Did the Universe come out of nothing** – Has something ever come from nothing? Causality – Something can't come out of nothing! Have we ever experienced or accepted this to have ever happened?
3. **(Hence) It was created** – By process of elimination it can only be such.

The preceding series of questions are based on the Qur'an – where it is said:

"Or were they created by nothing, or were they the creators [of themselves]? Or did they create the heavens and the earth? Rather, they are not certain." (Noble Quran 52:35-36)

Ask them if they agree?

Then based on this; propose these points of view:

All Time/Space & Matter came into existence at the point of the Big-Bang – therefore the Creator is not bound by Time/ Space or Matter but outside of Time and Space and Matter.
The universe is finite then the creator must be Infinite.
This Creator must be Self Sufficient as He exists prior to Universe, outside of Time & Space (Infinite), be Intelligent, and have Will & Power.

Moving on, we can further enhance this understanding, if required by Arguing by Design (Teleological Argument).

Evidence for 'design pointing to a creator' can also be found in the Quran where it states:

"We will show them Our signs in the horizons and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that it is the truth. But is it not sufficient concerning your Lord that He is, over all things, a Witness?" (Noble Quran 41:53)

Fine tuning by design not chance: If we look at the universe we see order in the design. All the laws and design seem finely tuned.

Look at the alternation of the night and day. Look at the composition of the gasses in the atmosphere being just right for life to exist. **The presence of organisation in any matter points to the existence of an organiser.**

The fact that ice (frozen water) does not sink but floats is of huge biological significance. Because only the top layer of any large body of water freezes, the floating ice will insulate the unfrozen water, allowing for organisms to live in warmer water below. If water was more dense as a solid, and would therefore sink; ponds, lakes, and even oceans and seas would freeze solid, with only a few inches of the top layer thawing in summer. This would effectively stop life from taking root from the beginning, as well as ending life on earth as it is known today.

Look at the ozone layer and how it filters harmful radiation from the sun and how the sky protects the earth from freezing over.

Look at the planets nearest to us; how their gravity actually diverts meteors, from space, away from Earth so that they don't bombard us.

Look at gravity and the strong and weak nuclear forces so finely tuned.

Fine Tuning Analogy - If the wheels in your car are not balanced then when driving at around 50mph you feel the steering wheel vibrate between your hands. Would you agree?

They reply: Yes (either experienced or can appreciate)

You: Yet the world spins around the Sun at over 50,000 mph yet due feel the slightest vibration below your feet? Now that's fine tuning!

****ALL OF THESE SIGNS POINT TO A CREATOR, (A WILL/POWER/INTELLIGENCE)!**

Do you agree?
Yes then go onto Revelation**.**
No Then give any of the following:

Mobile in desert – You are walking through the desert and you see a mobile phone sticking out of the sand. What is a mobile made from? – Glass, plastic and some precious metals. Glass comes from sand, plastic from oil and metals from ore. All of which are present in this desert. Therefore over thousands of years, the wind blew, the sun shone, it rained occasionally and this produced that Mobile phone – which you stumbled across, picked up, dialled home and said "Hi Mom"? Would you agree that this is how that phone got there? No! Even though the elements that make up that phone may have been present in abundance? Why? Because its design points to a creator!

Or

A loud bang somewhere – Clap your hands. That sound was the result your palms coming together very quickly – You were the cause, the action was the clap and the effect was the sound. Would you agree? Would you ever have a sound without a cause?

All have to be created by a cause or creator. Everything that **begins** to exist has a cause!
Ask them, do you AGREE?
Yes then go onto Revelation

R – Revelation

Key Points: You must present the fact that this book is a Miraculous; that it was revealed as speech – not as an inscribed object so the chances of error are significantly increased and because of its many attributes it can only have come from God.

Now it would not make sense that this creator who created everything didn't announce His presence to His creation (Humanity) and inform them of their purpose.

They: Why is that not sensible, maybe He wishes to remain unknown?
You: That's a possibility but would it make sense for the Creator to leave us in the dark with regards to questions such as:

What is the purpose of life? Or
Is there life after death? Or
Why is there so much evil in the world and will the innocent afflicted ever get justice? Or
Where will I find contentment?

*Since philosophy and science can never answer these questions because these things are unseen.

To add to this, we see that the Creator has clearly provided for our emotional and physical needs. When we're hungry there's food, we're thirsty there's water, we're naked so we wear clothes, i.e. we have the means to provide for our needs so wouldn't it be rational to presume that the creator who has provided for our physical needs would also provide for our spiritual needs; answers to the questions we have about life, death and our purpose.

Do you agree? (Smile/ use name).
Yes – then continue
No – then ask them to presume that it is so as it is rational to expect so and not expecting so is less sensible.

So the Creator could either do that internally or externally. Internally via self examining our thoughts and feelings or externally via communication not contained within you.
Would you agree (smile/ use name)?
They: Yes

Now let's look at why it can't be internal – As humans we make judgements and opinions based on a variety of factors, our DNA, experiences, environment and social context. The brain is developing throughout the early stages and deteriorating at the latter stages, so our 'intelligence' is at different stages throughout life. This would mean that our 'realities' (our perceived realities) change throughout life. Life experiences change according to age & place (social context) and inter differences between people, i.e. people having different levels of ability; understanding, so each would have their own reality of purpose, all leading to a clash of perceived realities/ purpose.

Therefore to suggest that all of humanity would have the same concept of a Creator would be unacceptable – and this is plain to see from history till this very day (look at how many religious opinions on the Creator, who some call God, we have). To add to this, we have previously discussed some of the attributes of this creator – being Infinite, not bound by Time/Space/Matter. All attributes we do not possess therefore it would not be reasonable or rational for humans to come to a correct conclusion in regards to the creator. **Like an ant trying to think like an Elephant.**

Would you agree (smile/ use name)?
They: Yes

Thus we are left with the need for External Communication. This makes sense because the One who created us in the first place is best suited to advise on Purpose & Guidance. So let's look at the criteria this external communication must fulfil to be deemed worthy of being attributed to the Creator.

1. It must be consistent with our rational understanding of the creator as discussed earlier i.e. it cannot say the Creator is a monkey sitting on the Sun – as the creator of the Universe cannot be a product of it.
2. It must be internally & externally consistent – Internally therefore, if we use an example of a book, cannot say on page 5 the Creator is One then say on page 550 there are three creators of the Universe. By externally we mean it cannot state that the Earth is 3000 years old when we know that it is much older than that.
3. It must be such that it can only be from the Creator. This evidence is so profound that it cannot be explained except supernaturally – otherwise it could be imitated.

Similarly this revelation from the Creator should include commands and instruction on how we are to behave, not only towards Him, but also His creation. A communication that would be perfect and free of inconsistency, contradiction, or absurdity and above all complete – not require additions and omissions centuries after completion, by mere mortals.
Do you agree? (Smile/ use name).
No – then try the following

When you go to the shop to buy a new phone (an upgrade) what comes with your new phone to teach you how to use it?
You/They: A manual
You: If you do things contrary to the manual or second guess what are the likely results of such actions?
You/They: damage or improper use.
Do you agree? (Smile/ use name).
You: also, if you don't use the manual you won't get the most out of all the features of your new phone and this in itself can be unfulfilling.
Do you agree? (Smile/ use name).

Now the Quran is a revelation that was revealed over 1400 years ago and is completely intact as per the original revelation. From amongst the famous manuscripts available today we have one in the Hast Imam Library in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, one in the British Museum, one in the Topkapi Palace, Turkey and one in the eastern library of the Grand Mosque of Yemen. The Quran was memorized word for word by thousands in the lifetime of the person through which it was revealed but we'll

come to that personality (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) later. Even today there are over 10 million people in the world who have memorized it word for word.

As an example: If you took a man from China, a man from America, a woman from England, a man from Alaska, a man from Africa and a woman from Russia. All of whom had memorised the Quran yet who did not speak each other’s language. Then take all the Qurans in the world and throw them into the sea – leaving not a single bound version. That team of people could reproduce the Quran from memory and have one by the end of the week.
Would you agree that was amazing (a good introduction to its credibility)?
They: Yes/No

They: But wait a minute, what about the creator declaring himself before 1400 years ago or 4000 years ago. Since science proves that humans were in existence then?
You: There have been many instances of these ‘Revelations’ from the Creator – they came in the form of what we could call books and they gave examples to mankind of how to live and bought answers to the questions we had, however these communications got corrupted or lost over time. Although they had divine origins they were not divinely preserved. We know this because they don’t fit the criteria, we discussed earlier, for it to be worthy of coming from the Creator. Some such examples are the Torah and the Gospel (not necessary but can be qualified by verses from Quran later).

You: getting back to the communication from the Creator – which if you permit we’ll call a ‘revelation’
They: Yes or No (keep it a Communication)

Now let’s look at how this book/communication/revelation fits the criteria of being from the Creator. We’ll take the 3 points mentioned earlier in reverse order that way if we can appreciate its uniqueness and supernatural quality/ miraculous nature we are more likely to appreciate the way it covers the other points: its Internal/External consistency and its view of the Creator.

However before that, the Quran contains a very bold statement – It actually confesses to be the work of the Creator. The Creator says in this revelation – “Verily! It is We Who have sent down the Quran and surely, We will guard it". [Noble Quran 15:9]

You: Please bare this in mind; now let’s assess the Quran’s supernatural qualities.

The linguistics - it was a miracle for the people 1400 years ago who excelled in poetry and linguistics. The Creator says in The Quran: **"And if you are in doubt concerning that which we have sent down to our slave (Muhammad) then produce a chapter like it, and call your supporters and helpers besides Allah, if you are truthful!" [Noble Quran 2:23]**

The challenge was laid down by The Creator in the Quran to the people over 1400 years ago to produce a chapter like it in the Arabic language with the smallest chapter being just 3 lines. The challenge still stands today, even though many have indeed tried!

The inimitability of the Quran, is such that although it comprises of Arabic letters it still does not correspond, surah by surah, to either poetry (Bihar), prose (Mursal or Saj’) or Maqaama (a combination of both); but is uniquely distinct.

Point to Note: Some religions today suggest that their pious ones (living amongst us) receive revelation from God. One example is the Jehovah's Witness' and their 'Elders'. Ask such groups to produce, some of, what they say God reveals to them in their dialogues – even 3 sentences of it. If it is imitable by man then it **cannot** be the word of God as we expect that the work of the All-knowing, All-Powerful is inimitable so that we can differentiate the word of God from that of man.

Historical – The Quran is the only book on Earth to refer to the Ruler of Egypt by two different names during two different periods. The Creator referring to the ruler at the time of Joseph (AS) as a King [Noble Quran 12:43] not a pharaoh but referring to a pharaoh [Noble Quran 28:3-6] at the time of Moses (AS). At that time it would have been impossible to know this because the hieroglyphs were a dead language so no one knew the language. So how does the Quran know this information? The hieroglyphs were only deciphered in the late 19th century. We can't say that it was copied from the bible because what was revealed in the Quran actually corrects the bible.

The prophesising of the Victory of the Byzantines over the Persians soon after the Byzantines had been defeated. "The Byzantines have been defeated, In the nearest land. But they, after their defeat, will overcome. Within three to nine years..." [Noble Quran 30:2-4].

Another prophecy is contained within Surah Masad [Noble Quran 111] where Abu Lahab is condemned to hell fire 10 years before his death. For 10 years the challenge was open but he did not accept Islam, so he died as a non believer.

Preservation - We have already discussed this earlier when highlighting a point in regards to its authenticity/ credibility (memorised then and now). Which book today could be said to have this quality from its very inception? Remind them of: "Verily! It is We Who have sent down the Quran and surely, We will guard it". [Noble Quran 15:9].

Numerical - The Quran was reveal over a period of 23 years, Surah Baqarah revealed over 9 years. Its structure is evidence that it's not from a human being. It was revealed in specific times and place but was brought together to have this amazing coherent connection. It has 286 verses, that halved 143 verses and in that verse we find the word 'middle' (Wasata). Surah al-Imran mentions Adam and Isa 25 times exactly.

Indeed, the example of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam. He created Him from dust; then He said to him, "Be," and he was. [Noble Quran 3:59]

The Universe – The Quran makes many statements regarding the Universe and what it contains. More recently many Du'aat often take these statements to an extreme and use them to justify all aspects of scientific discoveries. We should note that it is indeed possible that previous civilisations knew about some of the things mentioned in the Quran (Egyptians calling Iron 'BA-En-Pet' 'Iron from Heaven' being one example) therefore we shouldn't make statement like "The Quran says "such and such" and this couldn't have been known 1400 years ago, therefore the Quran is from God". Or, "the Quran talks about "x" which has just been discovered by science, hence Quran is the truth". We know that science is subjective and built on assumption, empiricism and induction all of which do not provide absolute knowledge but are subject to change. The Quran is the absolute truth; therefore we don't measure it by the ever changing views of science. The purpose of these verses is indeed to highlight the Creative Power of Allah and point to His Oneness, Majesty and Perfection (Rububiyyah) and His worthiness to be solely worshipped (Uluhiyyah). Where the science of Tafsir

permits, the verses can also provide indications to the world of science and help with their inquiries, research and points of investigation. Let's take a look at some of the statements the Quran made over 1400 years ago in relation to the Creative Power of Allah. (Ideally you would take a few of these and discuss them in detail if you wish).

1. Origins of the Universe – "Do not the unbelievers see that the heavens and the earth were a closed-up mass, then We clove them asunder? ...." [Noble Quran 21:30]
2. Origin of life- "...And We made from water every living thing". [Noble Quran 21:30]
3. Mountains as pegs- "Did We not make the earth a resting place and the mountains as stakes. " [Noble Quran 78:6-7]
4. Expansion of the universe- "And it is We who have built the universe with (our creative) power and keep expanding it." [Noble Quran 51:47]
5. Embryology described in detail in the Quran- "We created man from an essence of clay, then We placed him as a drop of fluid in a safe place. Then We made that drop of fluid into a clinging form, and then We made that form into a lump of flesh, and We made that lump into bones, and We clothed those bones with flesh, and later We made him into other forms. Glory be to God the best of creators. "[Noble Quran 23:12-14]
6. No two persons have exactly the same arrangement of fingertip ridge patterns – they are unique. "Does man think that We will not assemble his bones? Yes. [We are] Able [even] to proportion his fingertips." (Noble Quran 75:3-4}

You: Would you agree that it is remarkable, in the way it details various aspects of the Universe such that it makes one ponder over the Mighty and Majestic Lord of creation?

If yes then discuss what the Quran says about the **nature of the creator**.
If no then give more examples from below and remind them (with a smile and using their name) that we agreed to use logic and reason so how can we dismiss or not reflect on such profound statements?

7. Iron is not natural to the earth- "We sent down iron with its great inherent strength and its many benefits for mankind". [Noble Quran 57:25]
8. Sky- "We made a protective ceiling" [Noble Quran 21:32]
9. Waves above waves in the ocean [Noble Quran 24:40]
10. Pain receptors in the skin- "We shall send those who reject our signs to the hellfire. When their skins have burned away We shall replace them with new ones so that they may continue to feel the pain: God is Almighty, All-Wise." [Noble Quran 4:56]
11. Suns orbit- "It is He who created the night and day. The sun and the moon each floating in its own orbit." [Noble Quran 21:33]

You: Would you agree this book is miraculous/ supernatural / Marvellous – its authorship cannot be explained through a naturalistic cause?
If no, then give more examples and remind them (with a smile and using their name) that we agreed to use logic and reason. Also ask what remains for them to be convinced regarding the book?

Therefore we have now highlighted how the Book is Miraculous, as per it being inimitable, externally consistent based on its statements regarding the Universe and Life within it and internally consistent based on its numerical coherence, prophesies and no contradictions. The book also clearly states that there is no inconsistency/contradictions within it [Noble Quran 4:82] – and none have been

found since it was revealed 1400 years ago. Wouldn't you agree that is enough time to find a contradiction in any book?

You: Would you agree (smile/ use name)

Lastly, it also keeps a logical view on the Creator which we considered/ agreed to earlier. This is noted in Chapter (surah 112) – Al-Ikhlas. It also, remarkably, tells us the name of God – Allah!

Criteria of the Creator (the Logical view) Unique, All-powerful, self sufficient, uncreated and unlike anything else –

Say, "He is Allah, [who is] One,
Allah, the Eternal Refuge.
He neither begets nor is born,
Nor is there to Him any equivalent." (Noble Quran 112)

Ask them to agree that this book meets the criteria for being a communication from the Creator.
If yes then discuss what the Quran says about the **nature of the creator** and then **use the Quran** to **confirm the attributes and Oneness of God – His ultimate authority and worthiness for sole worship.**

All powerful and confessing to have created everything–
"Allah is the Creator of all things, and He is, over all things, Disposer of affairs.
To Him belong the keys of the heavens and the earth. And they who disbelieve in the verses of Allah - it is those who are the losers." [Noble Quran 39:62-63]

"And there is no creature on earth but that upon Allah is its provision, and He knows its place of dwelling and place of storage. All is in a clear register." [Noble Quran 11:6]

No other gods and that the Creator is God –
"People of the Book, go not beyond the bounds in your religion, and say not as to God but the truth. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only the Messenger of God, and His Word that He committed to Mary, and a Spirit from Him. So believe in God and His Messengers, and say not, 'Three.' Refrain; better is it for you. God is only one God. Glory be to Him - (He is) above having a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. And sufficient is Allah as Disposer of affairs." [Noble Quran 4:171]

"Allah has not taken any son, nor has there ever been with Him any deity. [If there had been], then each deity would have taken what it created, and some of them would have sought to overcome others. Exalted is Allah above what they describe [concerning Him]." [Noble Quran 23:91]

Say, [O Muhammad], "If there had been with Him [other] gods, as they say, then they [each] would have sought to the Owner of the Throne a way." [Noble Quran 17:42]

"Had there been within the heavens and earth gods besides Allah, they both would have been ruined. So exalted is Allah, Lord of the Throne, above what they describe." [Noble Quran 21:22]

Some of His Attributes –
"He is God; there is no god but He, He is the Knower of the unseen and the visible; He is the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate. He is God; there is no God but He. He is the King, the All-Holy, the All-Peace, the Guardian of Faith, the All-Preserver, the All-Mighty, the All-Compeller, the All-Sublime. Glory be to God, above that they associate! He is God the Creator, the Maker, the Shaper. To Him belong the Names Most Beautiful. All that is in the heavens and the earth magnifies Him; He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise." [Noble Quran 59:22-24]
"There is no god but He, the Living, the Everlasting. Slumber seizes Him not, neither sleep; to Him belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth. Who is there that shall intercede with Him save by His leave? He knows what lies before them and what is after them, and they comprehend not anything of His knowledge save such as He wills. His throne comprises the heavens and earth; the preserving of them oppresses Him not; He is the All-High, the All-Glorious." [Noble Quran 2:255]

****This is especially important if we look back to our definition earlier on Islam. "...after knowing who the Creator is..." The Creator is best placed to describe himself and therefore we can only truly know Him when He informs us of Himself and His attributes via His Revelation.**

Would you agree that the creator is therefore One (Unique) and has no equal?
They: yes
If no, then remind them that we agreed the book was miraculous, and that it hasn't been proven wrong till now. Therefore in light of current events it makes logical/rational sense to accept this; especially, in the absence of any other contradictory evidence.

If we agreed that there is a Creator and that this Creator sent us communication and that this communication is the Quran – Then we must agree that whatever comes from this Quran is the truth and is the only acceptable way for us to Live our lives?

(Smile / use name) Do you understand my logic so far?
Yes then go onto Agents

A – Agents

Key points: to confirm the importance of accepting and following the Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) as the only way to truly obey God.

This leads us to the question: "How did this revelation come to us?"

Now throughout time all these revelations, which were a communication from God, were delivered to the people by special agents of God. We call these people Prophets and Messengers. They all came with a basic and consistent thread of teaching; that of One Creator and glad tidings of paradise and warnings of a Hell.

Analogy: Now if you bought a Samsung phone there would be no point if it came with a Nokia instruction manual? Now imagine you bought a piece of equipment from a company and as well as the correct instruction manual they sent someone to teach you hands-on how to use it!

They say: So where does Muhammad (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) come into this?

You: Now the prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) was one such Agent. He was unlettered; he could not read or write. He was 40 years old when he started receiving revelations, up till that point and throughout his entire life he was always known as trustworthy, truthful, and honest; someone who had never lied and someone who was always kind to everyone. This was fully accepted by the people around him (Muslims & Non-Muslims).

Let’s look at him from an individual standpoint in terms of his characteristics and his call. He claimed to be the final prophet of God and that the Quran was revealed through him. Therefore in relation to him we have 3 possible options:

He could either be a liar, deluded or telling the truth – Ask them to agree?

Tackle each in turn by process of elimination and get the agreement at each stage – Not a Liar, Not Deluded, but Truthful.

Liar - He was stoned, beaten, abused, had attempts on his life, he was continually persecuted.
If he would stop preaching this message he was offered riches to make him the richest man in the city, offered positions of highest authority, women, gold, jewels etc but he never stopped preaching this message. Why do we lie? Ultimately for some benefit to us – yet this man is clearly rejecting anything of worldly benefit that would compromise his message. When he died he had the whole of Arabia under his command yet only had very little possessions, slept on a straw mat on the ground and lived in what could be described as a small house. Why would such a person lie if he gained nothing of worldly benefit from his lies?

Deluded - The occasion of the death of his son Ibrahim who was about 16 months old also coincided with an eclipse of the sun and the people began to circulate this as a miracle. The word went out saying that the sun was eclipsed in sadness over the death of Ibrahim. Upon hearing this Muhammad (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) is reported as saying "The sun and the moon are signs of God. They are eclipsed neither for the death nor birth of any man. On beholding an eclipse, remember God and turn to Him in prayer”.

Now had he been a liar then what an opportunity. Here you are after 20 years of trying to persuade people that you are the prophet of God and that you’ve brought His message. I mean 1400 years ago what an opportunity to say “see I told you; even the suns eclipsed because of my sorrow”, or **if he was deluded then he would convince himself “**The sun has truly eclipsed for my sorrow”.

Furthermore could one who was deluded be, not only one, but all of these: Teacher, Father, Statesman, Politician, Spiritual leader, Judge, General – how can all these attributes rest in one person? If we knew any such man today wouldn’t you agree that he would be an extraordinary person?

To add to the fact that the Quran was revealed over 23 Years – yet it is entirely consistent? Over 600 pages – you’d expect the lies and delusions to catch up with him after 23 years - yet not a single contradiction.

This leaves us with the only option – **He was a man of Truth**

Now reinforce your viewpoint - Let's look at what The Quran, which we agreed was from God, says regarding him and why so much stress is placed upon the obedience of the Prophet (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam). It is because **the obedience of Allah (God) cannot be carried out except through the obedience of the Prophet Muhammad** (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam). God does not address each and every individual to tell him what He requires from him, as the Qur'an puts it:

"And it is not possible for a human being that Allah should speak to him, except by revelation, or from behind a curtain or that He should send a messenger and reveal by His leave what He wills" [Noble Quran 42:51]

So, whenever only the obedience of the Prophet (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) has been mentioned in the Quran, it includes without saying, Obedience of Allah (God), because the Prophet (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) does not say anything in the capacity of a Messenger unless he is guided by a revelation from Allah (God).
"And he (the Prophet Muhammad) does not speak out of his own desire. It is not but a revelation revealed (to him)." [Quran, 53:3-4]

**Use selected ayah from each section.

Following the Prophet (**Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam**)**– "**Say, if you love Allah, follow me and Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. (Quran, 3:31)

Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find written down with them in the Torah and the Injeel. [Noble Quran 7:157]

"(The believers say): Our Lord, we have come to believe in what You revealed and followed the Messenger. So write us among those who bear witness" [Noble Quran, 3:53]

He could not read or write - "Believe, then, in Allah and His Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, who believes in Allah and His words, and follow him so that you may be on the right path". [Noble Quran 7:158]

By name - "Muhammad is not but a messenger. [Other] messengers have passed on before him". [Noble Quran 3:144]

It was revealed through him – "And those who believe and do righteous deeds and believe in what has been sent down upon Muhammad - and it is the truth from their Lord - He will remove from them their misdeeds and amend their condition". [Noble Quran 47:2]

Confirming his position - "Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Apostle of God, and the Seal of the Prophets: and God has full knowledge of all things". [Noble Quran, 33:40]

"Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah; ..." [Noble Quran 48:29]

His example - "Surely there is for you the best example in the Messenger of God, for whoever seeks the pleasure of God and the Last Day (Day of Judgment), and remembers God often." [Noble Qur'an 33:21]

“And if you obey him (the Prophet), you shall find the right path” [Noble Quran24:54]

He has authority - “...And whatever the Messenger has given you - take; and what he has forbidden you - refrain from...” [Noble Quran 59:7]

“All that the believers say, when they are called to Allah and His Messenger that he may judge between them, is that they say, ‘We hear & obey’: it is these who are successful. Whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger and fears Allah and has awe of Him: it is these who are the winners”. [Noble Quran24:51-52]

His obedience is alongside Gods Obedience - Whenever the Obedience of Allah (God) is mentioned in the Quran, it is always followed by the obedience of the Prophet which has never been missed even in a single verse. There is no verse in the entire Quran where the Obedience of Allah (God) has been mentioned alone with no reference to the Obedience of the Prophet.

There is however some verses where only the obedience of the Prophet has been mentioned, and there is no reference to the Obedience of Allah (God).

“And obey Allah and the Messenger that you may obtain mercy” [Noble Quran 3:132].

”...and whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger will be admitted by Him to gardens [in Paradise] under which rivers flow, abiding eternally therein; and that is the great attainment.” [Noble Quran 4:13]

“O you, who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best [way] and best in result.” [Noble Quran 4:59]

“And whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger - those will be with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the prophets, the steadfast affirmers of truth, the martyrs and the righteous. And excellent are those as companions”. [Noble Quran 4:69]

“Say: Obey Allah and the Messenger, but if they turn their backs, Allah loves not the disbelievers” [Noble Quran 3:32]

“And obey Allah and obey the Messenger and beware” [Noble Quran 5:92]

“So fear Allah and set things right between you, and obey Allah and His Messenger if you are believers”. [Noble Quran 8:1]

“O those who believe, obey Allah and His Messenger and do not turn away from him, while you are listening.” [Noble Quran 8:20]

“And obey Allah and His Messenger and do not quarrel with each other, and so lose heart”. [Noble Quran 8:46]

"And whoever obeys Allah and His Messenger, he has won a great success". [Noble Quran 33:71]

"If you obey Allah and His Messenger, He will not diminish you anything of your deeds". [Noble Quran 49:14]

"And whoever obeys the Messenger, thereby obeys Allah." [Noble Quran 4:80]

Mentioned alone – "And if you obey him (the Prophet, sallallaahu alayhi Wa sallam), you shall find the right path". [Noble Quran 24:54)

"And establish regular prayer and pay the poor-due and obey the Prophet so that you may be blessed". [Noble Quran 24:56]

On that day, those who disbelieved and disobeyed the Messenger will wish that the earth might be levelled with them. [Noble Quran 4:42]

His Disobedience – Just as the obedience of the Prophet Muhammad (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) has been stressed as akin to the obedience of Allah; in the same way, disobedience of him has been warned against and is akin to the disobedience of Allah (God).

"And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger and transgresses His limits, He shall admit him to Fire where he shall remain forever." [Noble Quran 4:14]

"And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger has gone astray into manifest error" [Noble Quran 33:36]

"And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger, for him there is the fire of Jahannam. There they shall remain forever" [Noble Quran 72:23]

To conclude therefore, the obedience of the Prophet Muhammad (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) represents the obedience of Allah (God). For this reason, the Quran in some verses deemed it sufficient to refer to the obedience of the Prophet (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) only, for the practical way to obey Allah (God) is only by obeying the Prophet Muhammad (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam).

The Quran however did not deem it sufficient to refer to the obedience of Allah (God) without referring to the obedience of the Prophet (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam), this is to remove the remotest excuse for ignoring obedience to the Prophet Muhammad (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam), **leaving no doubt whatsoever in the fact that obedience of Allah (God) is not complete unless the obedience of the Prophet Muhammad** (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) **is fully observed.**

****This is especially important if we look back to our definition earlier on Islam. "...In a manner that the Creator prescribes". The Creator has prescribed Islam and also that it must be observed in accordance to the practice of the Prophet Muhammad (salallahu alayhi wa sallam).**

Do you understand my logic so far (smile/ use name)?
Yes then go to Death

No then give more examples of Prophet Muhammad's (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) life & character. Also remind them how the revelation we agreed was from God is confirming the status of this Prophet (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam).

D – Death

Key points: to highlight that death is inevitable and nothing will avail us from the materials of this world.

Every soul shall taste death – A reality we all appreciate and no one denies. If there's something everyone can agree on, regardless of whether we live this realisation in our daily lives; it's the very notion that we will one day die.

Regardless of good health, long life, the size of our family, tribe or prestige – we will all die. We enter onto death **unaccompanied** and without allies. Our companions and protectors of the worldly life no longer have any emphasis or impact on our safety and well being...We all need to cross this bridge alone.

Our loved ones may remain behind, the money we've earned, the assets we owned and the properties we built – these shall all pass onto our inheritors. If it was of any value, it is now no longer of any use to us.

Yet we make these possessions, achievements & accolade the purpose of our life – even though many a time we lose them or the people associated with them – hence they are no longer the purpose of our life; as life continues!

Let's look at what the miracle (that we agreed on), the Quran – the communication from God, says in relation to death and our journey through life.

"Every soul will taste death. And We test you with evil and with good as trial; and to Us you will be returned." [Noble Quran 21:35]

"Competition in [worldly] increase diverts you**,** Until you visit the graveyards". [Noble Quran 102:1-2]

"And it is Allah who gives life and causes death" [Noble Quran 3:156]

"Every soul will taste death.....And what is the life of this world except the enjoyment of delusion" [Noble Quran 3:185].

No one can avert it – "Say: Avert death from your own selves, if you speak the truth." [Noble Quran 3:168]

E – Eternity

Key points: highlight that the next life is 'Life ever After' – which will not end. So will either be one of punishment or pleasure. As the themes in this section refer to the unknown it is of paramount importance that you use descriptions from the Qur'an to make your point; highlighting the pleasures or torments that lie ahead.

This life is brief; maybe 70 years as an average with the possibility of death at any moment. However the next life is eternal – To make an analogy of this ask them to:

Consider a photograph of themselves in the context of the video of their whole life.

Or

The Prophet (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) said: "**The life of this world compared to the Hereafter is as if one of you were to put his finger in the ocean and take it out again then compare the water that remains on his finger to the water that remains in the ocean**." [Sahîh Muslim 2858]

How we live in this temporary life ultimately results in one of two outcomes:

1. Hell & Punishment

We shall send those who reject our signs to the hellfire. When their skins have burned away We shall replace them with new ones so that they may continue to feel the pain: God is Almighty, All-Wise. [Noble Quran 4:56]

2. Heaven & Eternal Bliss

Indeed, they who have believed and done righteous deeds - those are the **best of creatures**.
Their reward with Allah will be gardens of perpetual residence beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide **forever**, Allah being pleased with them and they with Him. That is for whoever has feared his Lord. [Noble Quran 98:7-8]

Ask them to imagine the feeling of a Scolding Hot pan of boiling water or a Hot Iron – could they withstand the effect of either of these two touching the skin? Would they even want to? Warn them that the pain and suffering is even greater than that!

Get them to agree that they certainly wouldn't want this – which sane person would? Remind them we agreed that this is the Word of God – therefore it will surely come to pass.

S – Shahada

Key points: to invite to the way of Islam. We must give them the Invitation and the method on how to become Muslim.

This is an important but often overlooked part of Da'wah – You need to invite them to accept Islam. This goes hand in hand with conveying the message. You will be surprised to know that most non-Muslims don't even know what they must do to become Muslim – Remember, see the world through their eyes!

Give them a quick summary of GRADES.
OK?
Being a Muslim is a direct link between you and Allah (God) there are no intermediaries in Islam example A to B not A to C to get to B.

*Explain why we use Allah as opposed to God:
God is a word that has many meanings or can be used to denote gender or be plural i.e. God, Goddess, Godfather, Godson, Godmother, Gods. However the word Allah cannot be perverted for use in any such instance. Also advise that the book that we agreed was a miracle and from God confirms that His name is Allah. (Use Surah Al-Ikhlas)

Then briefly tell them about the 5 pillars of Islam – Declaration, Salah, Zakat, Fasting, Hajj and the 6 articles of faith- Belief in God, Belief in His Angels, and Belief in His Books, Belief in His Prophets and Messengers, Belief in the Day of Judgment (after Life), Belief in God's Divine Decree.

For the purpose of life follow God's guidance. It answers all the questions we have.
Life will improve, you will be happier and at peace. Many celebrities have became Muslims such as Muhammad Ali, Cat Stevens, Lupe Fiasco, Lauren Booth, Yvonne Ridley, Mos Def, Malcolm X, Nicholas Anelka, Thierry Henry just to name a few. Because money and status can't buy happiness or answer the questions we have or provide the peace our hearts and minds seek.

I would like you to accept this true and beautiful religion. Are you ready to say the words? – Invite them to Islam. Tell them that by doing sincere Shahada and becoming Muslim all their past sins will be washed away – they will be as pure as a new born baby however they will also keep all their good deeds!

Yes, then do the Shahada – First in English so they understand then walk them through the Arabic (tell them you will help them).
No, then tell them to use reason and logic as discussed earlier – doesn't it make most sense?
Tell them: - You already agreed to the points earlier; now you simply need to say what you agree to in your heart.

Use the analogies below to dismiss their hesitation:

- You don't need to know all of English law to be a lawyer; nor all of Islam to be Muslim
- If you agree what we have discussed is truth then it won't become false by waiting till tomorrow.
- Feelings are not always the basis to the way we do things - you don't feel like waking up at 7am, yet you do, to get to work on time.

There are two paths, the one with guidance leads to paradise, and the other leads to hell.
There will be a day of judgment.
Every soul will taste death – give an example or ask them to recall instances of how death came unexpectedly; to someone they may have known.
Time is running out - Remind them of the concepts D & E discussed earlier.
For the purpose of life follow God's guidance. It answers all the questions we have.
Family and personal life will improve, you will be happier and at peace.

Are you ready to say the words? – Invite them to Islam
They: Yes
You: Then repeat after me: "I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and messenger."
Now in Arabic, repeat after me: "Ashadu An la ilaha il-Allah Wa Ashadu Anna Muhammadan Abduhu Wa Rasoolu"

After Shahada (shake their hand/ give them a hug if same gender) get their number (and address too if possible) and tell them that you would like to keep in contact with them as their 'Muslim Buddy'. Explain that this is so you can help and support them in this period and to send them a welcome pack and information on retreats.

Primary importance (in the first few months after Shahada):

1. Teach them how to do wudhu and how to pray.
2. Salah is key; if they maintain this the rest will follow naturally – Don't jump to banning all the vices they may currently be partaking in.
3. Get them in touch with their local mosque – Meet the local Imam (they need social stability and support). Salah in Jamaa', Eid, Jumma, Ramadan are periods where they will feel the unity and support of the community to which they now belong.
4. Proceed patiently/cautiously – they may have family problems/social stigmas. **Don't push but accommodate**.
5. Give them a real taste of brotherhood/sisterhood in Islam & always keep them in your Dua's

---

Remember your job is to **convey** the message and invite to Islam. It is for ALLAH (SWT) to turn the hearts and **guide who He wills**.

Common Contentions

These are some of the contentions people may have based on your arguments:

What about Evolution?

This theory stems from the research of Charles Darwin, where he was classifying birds on the Galapagos Islands – but has now become an ambiguous term used by people to justify the beginning of everything. Evolution is the process of mutation of DNA and natural selection of biological traits, so what about the inanimate objects: the stars, moons, planets and other solar bodies; where there is an absence of DNA? Therefore evolution cannot be used to explain our existence nor picked up from one particular context, a biological one, and applied in another.

Where does Jesus fit in all this?

Just go to the Quran and relate the story of Jesus from the Book. Indeed advise how Islam is a continuation of the monotheistic religions of the prophets (Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad (Alayhim Us Salaam) who all called to the exclusive worship of One God.

Ask them as to what was the first miracle Jesus performed? They will say - To turn water into wine at the marriage feast at Cana [JOHN 2:9].

Start with the first miracle being the speech whilst in the cradle defending his mother, as an infant, against the false accusations of his enemies [Noble Quran 19:27-36]

Likewise discuss the other prophets. Alternatively, if taking on Christians then the ultimate contention is their understanding of God and His attributes and Jesus and his nature. So therefore the conversation will be as such:

You: Do you believe Jesus is God or was created by God?
They: created by God
You: May I say therefore, that you are not following the teachings of Christianity; belief that Jesus was God – Father/son/holy spirit (that's Christianity)
So you are more like the Muslims who also believe that Jesus was a special man – a messenger of God.

Discuss how Jesus is portrayed – Beard, loose clothing, Prostrated in the garden of Gethsemane.

Ask them: who prays like this today and who looks like this today – If he was among us today which religious group would he most resemble.
Discuss the mother of Jesus as depicted in portraits and paintings and statues – which women of today resemble this depiction of Mary?

Or

They say: Jesus is God
You: Relate the attributes of God (eternal, self-sufficient, All powerful, Just, All knowing, Prayed to, Master, unborn) & the attributes of Man (Finite, Needy (food, water, shelter), powerless, Knows only what is available to him, Prays, Slave, Born).

*Why Jesus cannot be God

1. God cannot be born – i.e. a period of non-existence.

2. No explicit verses in the Gospel where Jesus (AS) states he is God or worship me.

3. Separating parts of God – Jesus did not know the hour nor did he say he was good, and he prayed to a higher authority. How can that be? If you were pin pricked from behind regardless of where you were pricked you would feel the pain whether you saw it happen or not. Hence when it is being claimed that he is a part of God – how come this part is blissfully unaware of its adjoining parts or the knowledge held within them – somehow separate yet joined at the same time, clearly irrational??

Give them the following scenario: Stood before God on the day of judgement God asks me Why I didn't believe in Jesus as being divine: I reply; How could I believe that a man on a dot of a planet, which is in a dot of a galaxy, which is a dot in the universe which is itself a dot as compared to your majestic throne – Is your equal let alone your son or even to be considered a part of you.

If God Threw me into Hell because of that – I could never truly be convinced that justice had been done – whereas if we turn the tables and you were to come to God and say why you believe Jesus is anything more than a man, you must admit if you were thrown into hell because of your beliefs you can understand and appreciate why you were!

Then advise how throughout the life of Jesus we can see the parables of a man not that of a God. Use both Quran and Bible chapters which affirm to Jesus exhibiting human characteristics:-

NEW/OLD TESTAMENT
His power - "I can of mine own self do NOTHING . . ." [JOHN 5:30]
Was he perfect? -"And Jesus said unto him, why do you call me good? There is none good but one, that is, God" [Mark 10:18]
When asked about the Hour i.e. unseen knowledge–"No one knows about that day or hour" Matthew [24:36]
One God – "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD" [Deuteronomy 6:4]
Prostrating in garden, praying to whom, to God (why would God pray to Himself?) –"He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father,* if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." [Matthew 26:39]

QURAN
Born - Mary brought him as a baby (hence growth is a character of man) – refer [Noble Quran 19:27-36]

Ate food – "The Messiah, son of Mary, was not but a messenger; [other] messengers have passed on before him. And his mother was a supporter of truth. They both used to eat food. Look how We make clear to them the signs; then look how they are deluded". [Noble Quran 5:75]

Gods prevails - "Then who could prevent Allah at all if He had intended to destroy Christ, the son of Mary, or his mother or everyone on the earth?" [Noble Quran 5:17]

Jesus' word on day of questioning – "He will say, "Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right". [Noble Quran 5:116]

They say: but he was both
You: Can a circle be a square at the same time – define a circle – its round and has no corners. A square has 4 corners. A circle can fit into a big enough square and vice versa but one cannot be itself and another at the same time – that's a contradiction and impossible.
They say: Anything is possible for God – he can do anything.
You: does God do evil?
They: <puzzled> - No. Hence they have contradicted themselves.
You say: In Islam we don't like to say God can't do but instead we say that is not the way of God that he would do such things as it is unlike God.

Ask them - You do agree that God is Just & Fair?
If they agree, then state:

As God is just he cannot require humans to believe in and follow something on the basis of an absurdity. Then require belief to fill in the gaps. As this would mean he would send us to Hell based on something which was completely irrational and hence unfair. Belief must be based on a logical and rational view of God. Otherwise it's similar to telling someone that I'm selling you a Nissan Sunny at the price of a Mercedes but you must believe that you are getting a Mercedes and it will be ok.

Would you accept this in real life?
No? – Then why do you accept this when it comes to something greater than life i.e. the **eternal afterlife**

They could also have a further contention and say: **"**But he died for my sins."
You: Give them a quote from the bible which contradicts this statement: "The soul that sins, it shall die. The son (the progeny of Adam) shall not bear the iniquity of the father (Adam); neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him". [Ezekiel 18:20-21]

Then use the following analogies below; both highlighting the concept of dying for sins and of severe injustice being attributed to God.

Analogy of free ticket to heaven: 100 people rush into a shop and take things from a shop on credit and in the process cause some damage to the fixtures and fittings. Then one man comes and pays for all of them their merchandise and the damage they did. Now the shop keeper cannot demand payment from those people as the credit/damage liability is settled by third party. Hence in relation we are all sinless (since Jesus supposedly dies for our sins) and so can go to heaven. Regardless of whatever evil we do in life, to the people or animals. Is this rational – ask them? Didn't we agree on using common sense?

Analogy of injustice: A judge is presented with 3 murderers but prior to passing judgment against them he says “What am I to do with you my good criminals?” hence he calls “Oh guards – bring my son here”. The son comes in and is informed that he will be sentenced to death for the crimes of those murderers even though he has not committed any crime. The son pleads not to be killed and requests that the Judge his father think of some other method of resolution – based on the judge, his father’s supreme wisdom. However the judge does not agree and sentences his son to death all the while blowing a kiss at the criminals and remarks “I love you my dear criminals”. Is this Justice; all from a God who is Merciful, Loving, Just?

Finally, they say he was the son.
You: Son, in what way; physically? As in given birth - the way humans do or the act which humans perform which results in conception?
They say: Yes - Then they are absurd/deluded and probably insincere but you can refer back to nature of God and how such a concept is an insult to God. Why do we have sons – It’s a human requirement, need of old age, support and continue humanity – God is eternal and All-powerful and is not in need of such things.

They say: No not like that, but godly Son.
You: From where do you take your proof?
They say: Bible:
You can now use the following to ask them – “what about these sons?”

1. 'Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the SON OF GOD." LUKE 3:38
2. " . . Thus- said the Lord, Israel is MY SON even my FIRSTBORN." EXODUS 4:2
3. “and Ephraim is my FIRSTBORN," JEREMIAH 31:9
4. " . . Thou (o David) ART MY SON; this day have I (God) BEGOTTEN thee. " PSALMS 2:7
5. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the SONS OF GOD.’ ROMANS 8:14

Then add “let’s look at what the Quran says”:

Indeed, the example of Jesus to Allah is like that of Adam. He created Him from dust; then He said to him, "Be," and he was. [Noble Quran 3:59]

They may have a final perspective and say: He was the adopted son
You: If you had a frog (Freddy the Frog), and then said hey I’ve adopted a frog – he sits in his tank next to me when we eat at the dinner table, he has his own bedroom and we also watch TV together? I’ve sent off the papers to the adoption service (as liberal as we are) and they should be sending through my approval letter any day now. Would you consider this a proper adoption? – refer to common sense/ rationale.

To consider humans equivalent to animals is degrading as they are a lower being than ourselves – hence we use terminology such as “You Cow” or “You son of a .....” Since these terms are derogatory to humans. In the same context to refer to Man as being related to God in any way is extremely derogatory and offensive to God.

I don't need God in my Life…Besides where is the proof?

The Non-Muslim may say that He/ She doesn't need God in his/her life – that He is neither relevant, necessary or that they cannot see Him (Physical evidence) – hence they don't believe in His existence.

To answer this contention we can use the following analogies:

Not necessary – One may say that "I don't need Barak Obama in my life, ultimately he is not someone who is necessary for me to continue living as I am", but does that mean that Obama does not exist? Or that the world policy he dictates doesn't impact your life in England – even though you are unaware of it?

Irrelevant – As a resident of London you may feel that a city (Ancram) in the heart of Colombia is totally irrelevant to you, you neither know the language the customs or the people – but does that mean that that city does not exist or that the coffee it produces that is currently sat on a shelf at your local supermarket isn't their produce – just because you are not aware of it or buy a different brand?

Physical evidence – Do you need physical evidence for everything in life? Prove to me that you have a great, great, great, great Grandfather.

Could we argue that the Creator is "One" from a purely logical perspective?

The simple answer is yes. However it is best to use the Quran to justify the nature and attributes of the Creator (Allah) – therefore we work towards the agreement of this Book being the communication from the Creator – if they accept this they naturally accept what it says in relation to Allah almighty. Below are some logical examples that infer oneness:

Sniper example – A sniper locks onto a target and radios in "HQ target in sight – awaiting the order to fire". HQ replies "hold fire – waiting order from Higher up" – If they were to continue up the chain of command infinitely requesting approval – Would the sniper ever get to shoot? No! Therefore the fact that the world came into existence (the shot was fired) shows that there was that one overall cause (which had the power, will, intelligence for it to come into existence)

Or

Falling Dominos - Each domino is like the one adjacent to it and if you work backwards each one falls due to the knock on effect of being hit by the preceding domino. However regardless of how far we journey back along the line of falling dominoes – we must appreciate that it all began with the flicking of the first Domino. That cause was unlike all the other Dominoes – in nature, power & will.

Or

Moving the Sofa – You wish to move a sofa but it requires two people – So you go across the street and ask a neighbour to help. He says he could do but must ask his neighbour if he can. This process is repeated infinitely with each neighbour asking a new neighbour if they have the authority to help. Do you think the sofa would ever get moved? No! That is why for the World to have come into effect there must be a cause and that cause must be one and unique.

The point of each example is that **because the world came into existence** there can only be one creator (all goes back to Him).

You can even use the following analogy based on human experience/History:
There can't be two creators because then one would have to restrict the power & ability of the other. Imagine having two kings in one country? Whose Law would hold supreme? Wouldn't there be continuous conflict and war between the two. Where would they have time to ensure order and harmony in the land if they are engrossed with contending each other? Think of periods in history where there have been power struggles in a land – the result being war & chaos till one is the victor!

(Smile / use name) Do you understand my logic so far?
Would you agree therefore due to the harmonious nature of the cosmos that the creator is therefore One (Unique) and by being Unique therefore and has no equal?

Why is there so much suffering in the world?

First and foremost, the presence of evil in the World doesn't negate the existence of God.
Then ask: Is God evil?
Yes? / No?
If Yes – That is not the nature of a God as we know God to be Just, Merciful, compassionate. Evil is against justice and God is Just.
No – Most will agree hence there are many times when something will seem bad but it's actually good for us, or it's necessary but we cannot comprehend the wisdom behind it. Just go to the Quran – use examples from the Life of Moses (thrown in water), Abraham (sacrifice of son).

Or emphasise real world phenomena - Volcanoes and land mass, fertile earth, Lightning - produces ozone, a gas that helps protect the Earth from the dangerous rays of the sun. Ultimately we can go on but this is not a science lesson, we are just highlighting the point.

Alternatively, advise that if you were **not** to follow the instruction booklet of your new electronic device, you stored it at extremely high and extremely low temperatures, you submerged it in water – all of which is contradictory to the advice contained in the booklet – you would not only ruin the device but probably void your warranty as well. Ask them to agree. Hence if we live in contrast to God's teaching we will ruin ourselves and the environment around us (people, animals and the world we live in).

Just because science doesn't have an answer it doesn't mean we need religion?

We agreed at the beginning to use common sense and affirmed this through the Man in the Red Underpants example. Science in and of itself cannot provide answers to the unseen (refer to the philosophy of science). Therefore we agreed that if it makes sense and it's not contradicting itself; it's definitely a viable option – especially since we don't have an alternative. Therefore if what we discussed makes sense – then it makes sense to follow it as opposed to wait until something else comes along.

A train arrives at the platform going to where you need to be; you'd get the train rather than wait for the next one – since it may/may not arrive in time for you to get to work? This analogy is the

same as becoming Muslim now before one dies in a state of hoping some other evidence will come along. Remind them we agreed to use common sense and get them to agree that in the absence of any contradictory (Factual) evidence from the scientific world, what we discussed makes most sense.

Ask them to imagine this: There is a building across the street and on the third floor of this building is a room. The very nature of your survival rests upon you knowing what is contained within that room. Now there could be a desk and chairs in that room, or storage boxes or even nothing in that room – but your guess is as good as anybody else's in your situation. However what if a man informs you of what is in that room and the man confirming what is in the room wears a uniform which has the logo that is the same logo on the building, has a business card that has his name on it and contact number of that very room. Would you take his advice or the advice of someone off the street or someone who works outside the building? Would you take someone else's advice over his?

Hence the prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) knows what is in store for us as he has the credentials and the miracles to back up this claim. Refer back to the Agents section.

Wasn't the Quran copied from earlier sources?

If so, wouldn't the mistakes made by earlier sources also have been copied? Especially by a man who could neither read nor write? Even if he had helpers – how were they able to contradict established science of the time, like that of the Greeks? However the Quran only contains truths and no contradictions. Secondly revealed over 23 years – yet completely consistent. We wouldn't even remember the contents of this conversation 5 years on? It contains prophecies and also completely new information unknown to any civilisation at the time. It also revives dead knowledge - as the information it relates had become extinct.

Use examples such as:
Referring to the ruler at the time of Yusuf (AS) as a King (Noble Quran 12:43) not a pharaoh but referring to a pharaoh (Noble Quran 28:3-6) at the time of Musa (AS)
Embryology and Iron - see Revelation for references.
The use of gender (syntax) for Bees and Ants.
Walid ibn Al Mughira's (non-Muslim) comments in relation to its literary magnificence.

Also for it to have been copied from other sources you are saying that people wrote the Quran. If we sum up the possible sources of the Quran, all the arguments, they can be reduced to five.

Summary of arguments:
1- The Quran could have come from Allah,
2- An Arab,
3- A non-Arab,
4- Muhammad (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) or
5- Satan

The logical conclusions to be drawn are:
1- The Quran could not have come from an Arab because the Arabs during the time of revelation were linguists par excellence and they failed to challenge the Quran. They had even admitted that the Quran could not have come from a human being.

2- The Quran could not have come from a non- Arab since the language in the Quran is Arabic, thus, knowledge of the Arabic language is a pre-requisite to successfully produce the Quran.

3- The Quran could not have come from the Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) due to the following reasons:

a) The Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) was an Arab himself and all the Arabs failed to challenge the Quran.

b) The Arab linguists at the time of revelation never accused the Prophet (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) of being the author of the Quran. One of the best Arab linguists of the time Walid Ibn al-Mughira said “By God; none of you is more conversant than I with poetry, melodious hymns and songs, and by God never did I hear anything similar to what he says. It is so sweet and so graceful that it remains at the summit with nothing to surpass it”.

c) The Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) experienced many trials and tribulations during the course of his Prophetic mission. Yet the Quran’s language remains that of divine voice and character. Nothing in the Quran expresses the turmoil and emotions of the Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam). It is almost a psychological impossibility to go through what the Prophet (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) went through and yet none of the emotions are expressed in the literary character of the Quran.

d) The Hadith or narrations of the Prophet Muhammad (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) are in a totally different style than that of the Quran. How can any human being express themselves orally over a 23 year period in two distinct styles? This is a psychological and physiological impossibility according to modern research.

e) All types of human expression can be imitated if the blueprint of that expression exists. For example precious artwork can be imitated regardless of how impressive it is. But in the case of the Quran we have the blueprint; The Quran itself- yet no one has been able to imitate its unique literary form.

4- The Quran tells the reader to seek protection in God from Satan prior to reading (Ta’wooz) and openly warns against Satan and his kind in many places.

5- The Quran can only have come from the Divine;
It is the only logical explanation as all the other explanations have been discarded because they do not explain the inimitability of the Quran in a comprehensive and coherent manner.

Why don’t Muslims behave the way you show Islam?

Ultimately any religion or organisation can be highjacked for personal reasons – someone could come along tomorrow and perform a heinous crime yet claim to be Catholic. However we know that Catholicism doesn’t promote or ascribe to anything of what the person has done. Therefore it isn’t fair to blame the religion for the mistakes of the people who follow that religion – especially if what they are doing has no basis in that religion. You could give the example of dictators belonging to a specific religion. Or use the following analogy to remain non-political:

A Bentley is an incredible car, a superb machine and of exquisite calibre and prestige among automotives. However give that car to a drunken man and if he drives it into a wall – do we say that the car is bad or do we blame the driver? Get them to agree, that the driver is at fault not the vehicle. Hence Islam is perfect the exponents may not be.

Wait a minute…Isn't the universe eternal?

Actually based on observation we now know that it isn't. This has in itself opened up a "can of worms" for the atheists as they can no longer hide behind this viewpoint. An example of why the Universe cannot be eternal in simple terms is given below:

The universe is expanding – Discovered by Edward Hubble 1929. Therefore how can you add to infinity? What is 5 plus Infinity? You see my point? You can't expand on something which is infinite. Besides whatever grows has a beginning, so if we were to travel back and rewind this growth then, at some point however far off we would reach the beginning (Of the Universe) and whatever begins to exist has a cause.

The Sun is a mass of thermo energy – i.e. gives off heat. We also know today that this energy is finite i.e. one day the Sun will stop giving out heat and 'burn out' much like a lamp powered by oil. Therefore if the universe had an infinite history the Sun would have reached a state of heat death (burned out a long time ago) and become the same temperature as its surroundings (outer space). Much like the way a water bottle continually looses heat till it reaches room temperature.

Why not accept all religions as they all teach good things…Or take the best from each?

Firstly we need to appreciate the Quran upon their hearts and minds – for this use the chapter on 'Revelation'. Ideally agreeing that the Quran is the Word of God means that whatever is dictated in the Quran, we as humans must follow.

Therefore, ask them: Do you think you can add to perfection?
They: <Surely> No.
You: While on the flip side you can take away from something which is perfect leaving it imperfect?
They: Yes

Or
Can you add to something which is already complete?
They: No

Then in the same token when God says in the Quran:

"...This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favour upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion..." (Noble Quran 5:3)

We need to accept that Islam is the summit of perfection in religion – such that it does not need additions or omissions.

What's in it for you?

Inform them that you do not receive any payment for your work but as a Muslim this is what Allah has commanded you to do. Use references from Quran to prove your point.

No payment – “Say, I do not ask of you for it any payment - only that whoever wills might take to his Lord a way." [Noble Quran 25:57]

“Say, I ask of you for this message no payment. It is not but a reminder for the worlds." [Noble Quran 6:90]

My duty is to convey the message – “But if they turn away - then We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], over them as a guardian; upon you is only [the duty of] notification” [Noble Quran 42:48]

The way of the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa sallam) – “Say: This is my way. I call to Allah with sure knowledge, I and whoever follows me.” (Noble Quran 12:108)

Allah guides who He wills - “And it is not for a soul to believe except by permission of Allah” [Noble Quran 10:100]

The religion teaches us that we should wish for others what we wish for ourselves and be good to our fellow neighbour hence this is the best gift we can impart on our fellow man: that there is only one God; Allah and of His religion Islam, which He has ordained.

“Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam” [Noble Quran 3:19]

Appendix

A brief view on World Religions

Christianity – discussed thoroughly in common contentions section.

Judaism – Key concept remove the idea that an ethnicity can only be assured Heaven. Then point to it being elitist and above all racist. Is God racist/unfair/unjust?

You: Look at the concept of being Jew. It is an ethnicity as opposed to a religion one can convert to.
They: Yes
You: How would that be fair, since God is fair? He is sending me to Hell because he made me African – isn't this an elitist mentality and unjust?
They say: No anyone can become Jew.
You say: What is the book of the Jews?
They say: Torah
You: So to you this is the word of God?
They say: Yes
You should then discuss a prophecy in the book of Deuteronomy – 18:18;

"I will raise up for them a Prophet **like you** from among their **brethren**, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him." (Deuteronomy 18:18-19)

Prophecy yet unfulfilled? How about Muhammad (Salallaahu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam) as fulfilment of that prophecy by being from the brethren of Moses (AS): Use chart below to pose similarities.

Description	Moses (AS)	Muhammad (SAW)	Jesus (AS)
Natural Birth	✔	✔	✖
Married	✔	✔	✖
Children	✔	✔	✖
United various tribes under one cause	✔	✔	✖
Statesman	✔	✔	✖
Forced into migration	✔	✔	✖
Victory over enemies	✔	✔	✖
Died	✔	✔	✖

New Laws brought	✓	✓	✗
Rejected by own people then accepted.	✓	✓	✗
Worshipped as God	✗	✗	✓
Called to One God	✓	✓	✓
Jewish race	✓	✗	✓

Hinduism – The key is dismissing the worship of Idols. Detaching them from this and highlighting the fact that Hindu scripture is against it.

Is the Idol God or a representation of God?
They: God
You: Here we could present the argument of that:

Imagine the roof of your temple fell in or during an earthquake the Idol was shattered and destroyed – did your god die that day? However this may be a little strong of a statement to start with for some – but could be used as supporting arguments later on to clarify what God actually is. Hence let's steer the argument in another direction. As follows:

You: Then you are not Hindu since Hindu scripture says:

Yajur Veda 32:3: "God is formless and bodiless"

They say (Either based on first question or after you gave verse): Ah I mean that it's not actually God but a representation\manifestation of God.

You say: Bhagavat Gita 7-24: "The ignorant believe that un-manifest Para Brahma (One God) incarnates or takes manifestations, because they do not completely understand My highest, immutable, incomparable, and transcendental existence."

Bhagavat Gita 7:19-21: "All those who do idol worship, All those who worship demigods are materialistic people."

Yajur Veda 3:32: "...Of that God you cannot make any images."

Advise them that they are not Hindu if they do idol worship or if they do not believe in one God. They may say but I believe everything is a part of God – then go to the pantheism argument below. Then advise them of the religion that teaches that there is Only One God and that God is incomparable (Islam). Use the section on Revelation to confirm the communication from God.

Pantheism (everything is a part of God) – The Key is to dismiss the idea that God is a part of His creation – this is inconceivable as that would mean God is bound in many respects by Time and space and Laws of the universe.

Do you believe in God?
They: Yes
Where/who is that God
They: God is everything.
You: Look at the arguments against why man cannot be God (earlier); the separation of entities and attributes and how both are not only unlike each other but often opposites. A more coarse idea would be to consider some type of filth and to suggest that what they are actually saying is incredibly absurd i.e. that they would consider this filth, therefore, worthy of being worshiped.

*Alternatively as per the section on 'GOD' if the universe was created at some point in time as we agreed, then how is it possible that the creator exists and does not exist at the same time?

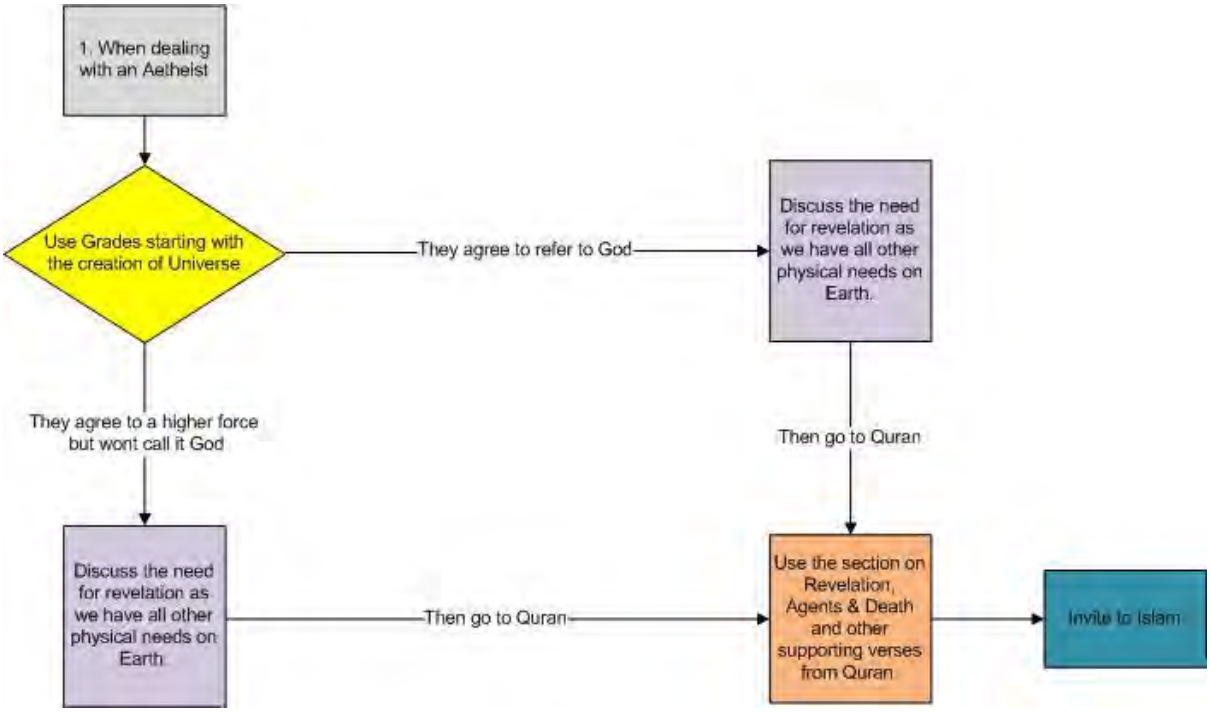
Buddhism or Shinto – key concept is to introduce a God (Creator) and to dismiss any divinity of personalities.

Is Buddha God?
They say: Yes
You: assess the impossibility of him being God – Born, ate, death etc Also ask where did Buddha say he was God?
They say: Not God, there is no God.
You: Go to cosmological argument – where did the universe come from? Work GRADES from the beginning as they should be treated as atheists in this regard.

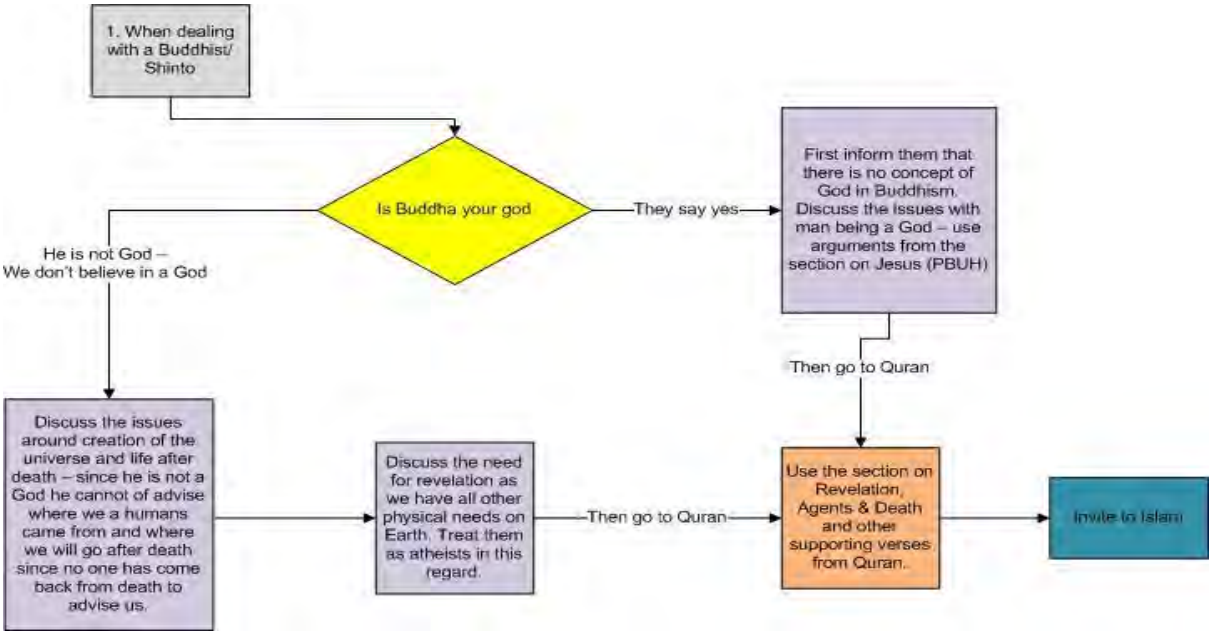
Flow charts

Diagrammatic illustrations detailing the possible flow of discussion, with followers of other World religions.

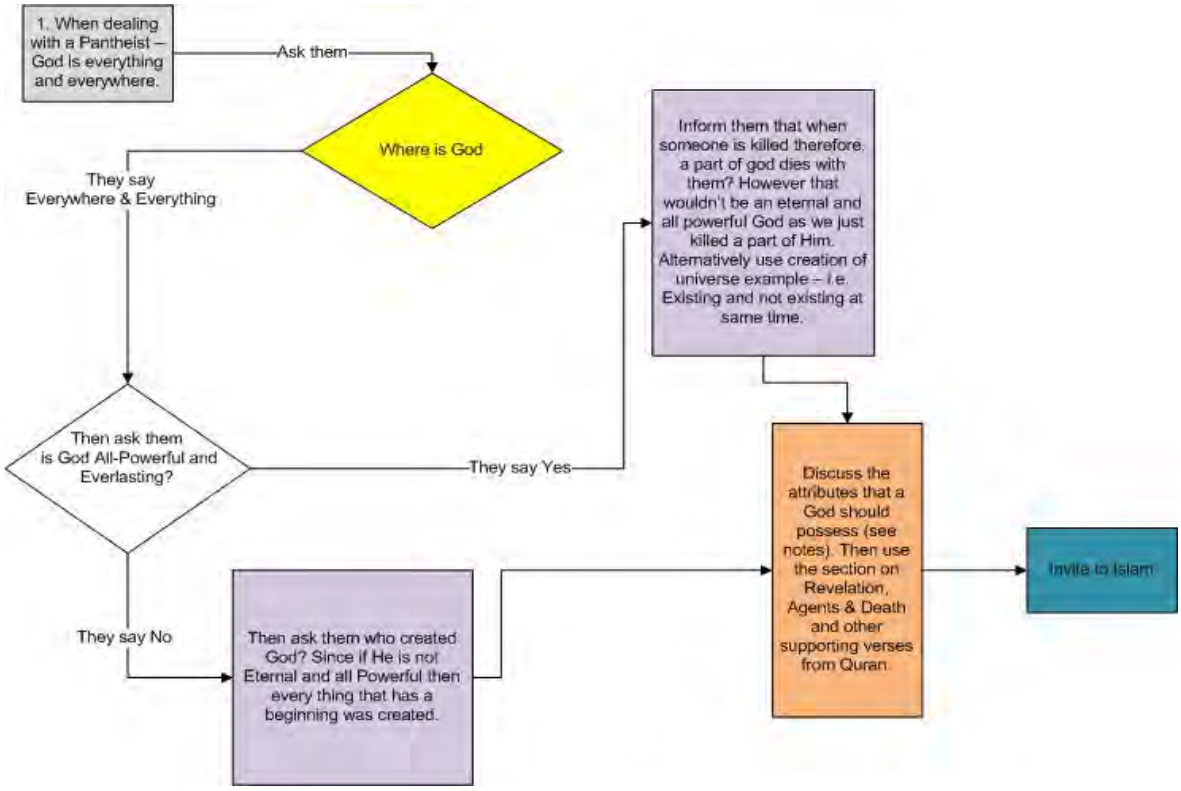
Atheism



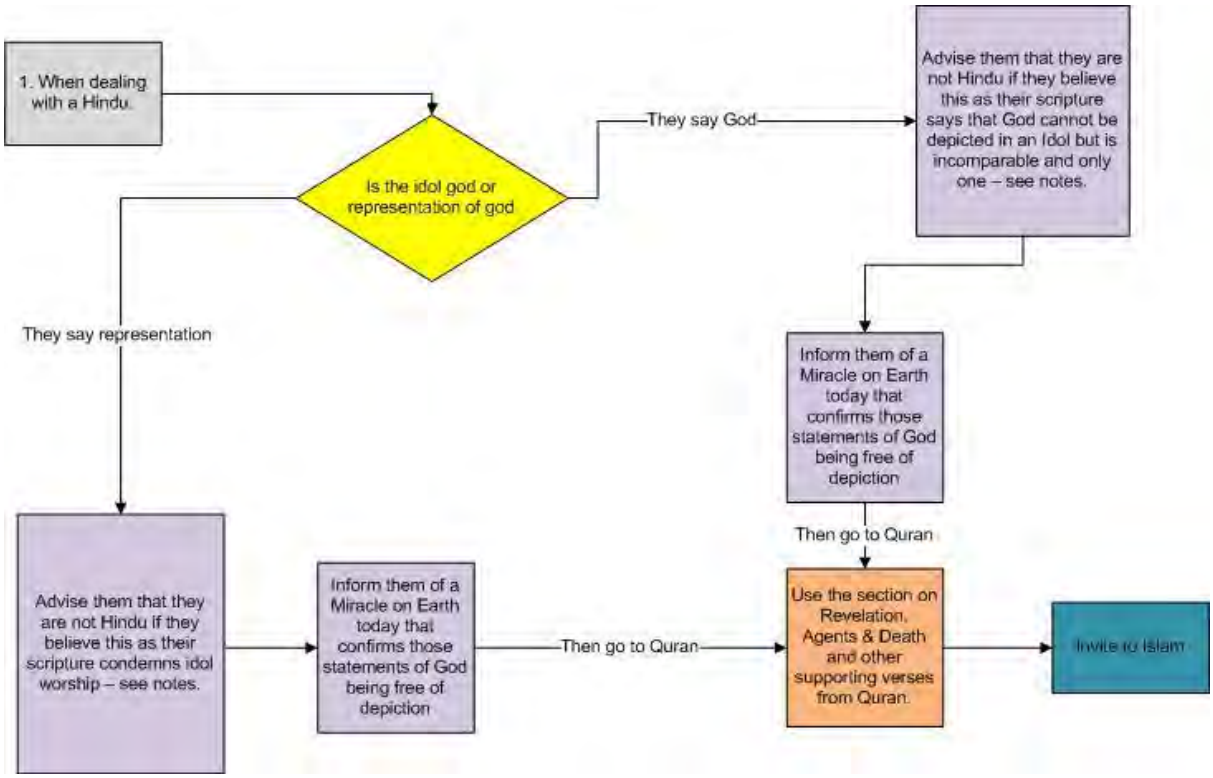
Buddhism



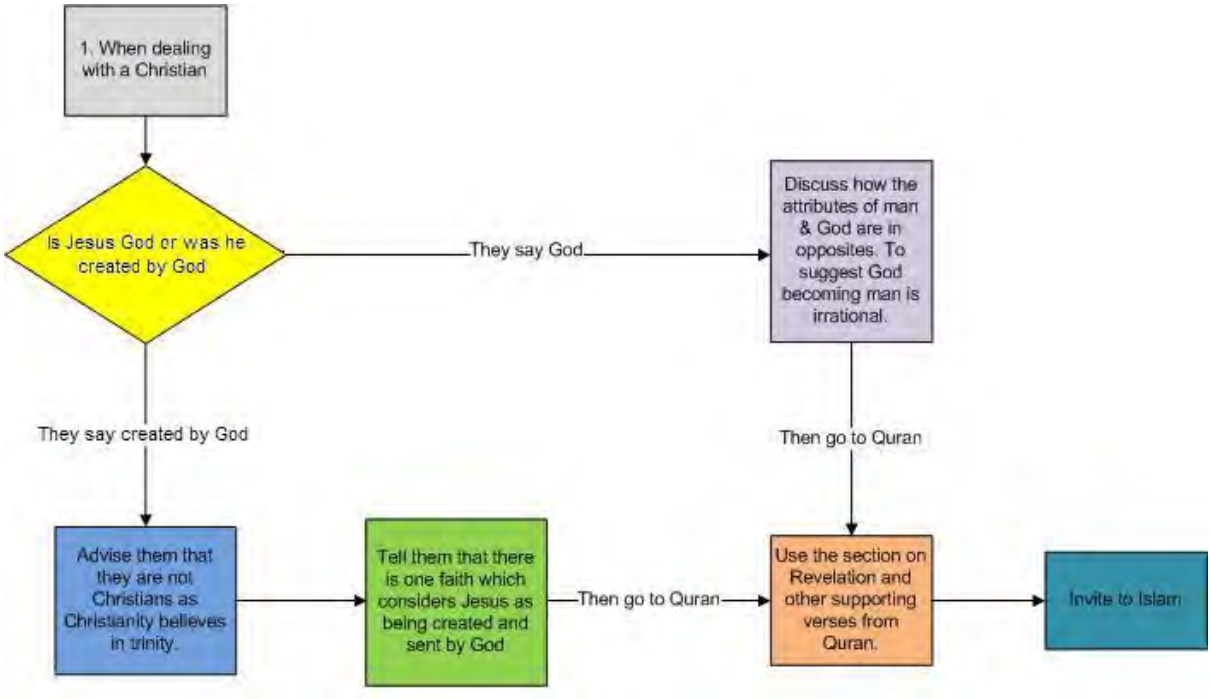
Pantheism



Hinduism



Christianity



GRADES in a Nutshell

This section should be detached and kept on the Da'ee as a personal reference sheet. An effective way to invite to Islam is the GRADES methodology, which stands for:

- GOD
- REVELATION
- AGENTS
- DEATH
- ETERNITY
- SHAHADA

The GRADES outlines a roadmap to avoid unnecessary debate and instead focuses you towards the concept of Tawhid from the outset.

Initiate

You will be approaching people on the street using some initiation Da'wah material to start a Da'wah conversation. Alternatively you may be approached by members of the public.

1) Confidently approach non-Muslims and hand out the initiation cards.
2) Ask a series of open ended questions in order to enter into a conversation.

Examples include:

- *Excuse me Sir/Madam what do you think is the purpose of life?*
- *Do you follow a particular faith? (If yes/No, then ask why)*
- *Do you believe in a Creator of the Universe (If yes/No, ask why)*

Once engaged in a conversation, introduce yourself first then ask their name and shake hands if of the same gender.

This is an important stage of the process it sets the tone of the conversation going forward, therefore be polite and try to create an environment where people feel free to explore ideas. Using words like common sense, logic and rationale are also good ways of eliminating bias from the outset.

GOD

Once they have provided an answer to your question you can then direct the conversation to God by doing the following:

1) Summarise what they have said so they know you have understood their point of view.
2) Then say that 'The most important thing to determine is how the Universe came into existence as we are all part of the Universe.'

Quranic reference to support the following viewpoint:

"Or were they created by nothing, or were they the creators [of themselves]? Or did they create the heavens and the earth? Rather, they are not certain." (Noble Quran 52:35-36)

A) The Universe had a beginning (e.g. Hubble's law of expanding universe, The Big Bang Model)
B) How did it come into existence?

- Did it come from nothing? (Nothing comes from nothing)
- Did it create itself? (Cannot exist and not exist at the same time)
- Does it have a creator? (This is the most logical)

C) Everything that begins to exist has a cause; the Universe began to exist so the Universe has a cause.
D) The cause is greater than the effect because it can exist independently of it (Not vice-versa)

The Order in the Universe

Quranic reference to support the following viewpoint:
"We will show them Our signs in the horizons and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that it is the truth. But is it not sufficient concerning your Lord that He is, over all things, a Witness?" (Noble Quran 41:53)

A) Anything that has order and design points to a designer – the greater the complexity the greater the intelligence of the designer i.e. Mobile phones, Watch.
B) Our Universe exhibits laws, Mathematical Constants, Recurring Patterns & Order

For example:
- The distance of Earth from Sun
- Ozone layer
- Gravity
- Density of Ice less than water
- Water Boiling Point (or any boiling/melting points of substances)

C) Even so called perceived disorder is in fact intricate design
- Lightning (produces Ozone)

Conclusion
The huge amount of design and order in the Universe indicates that the Creator is incredibly powerful and intelligent. This Creator existed before the creation of the Universe i.e. the point where Time, Space & Matter was created. Therefore the Creator is not bound by Time, Space & Matter.

REVELATION
A) There is a need for revelation. This is because the Creator has created us and provided for our:
   I. Physical needs – Food, Water, Shelter, Clothing
   II. Emotional needs – Relationships

Would it not make sense that He would also provide for our:
   III. Spiritual needs. Answers to questions such as:
   - Our purpose in life?
   - Where we came from?
   - What happens when we die?

B) Now this can come to us:
   I. Internally – Dreams, thoughts, opinions
   II. Externally – Revelation

C) It cannot be internal as we all have different DNA, Social Backgrounds, Influences, Abilities, Brain Age, so each of us has a biased view.
D) Must be External – Like a book; the way we get a manual that accompanies a new mobile phone with instructions on how to use it. Also since the Creator created us – it makes sense that He informs us on our purpose and how to operate.
E) Any book from the Creator must fulfil 3 conditions – The Quran, a book over 1400 years old, does this:
    I. Have a logical view of the Creator – Surah Ikhlas
    II. Be internally/externally consistent – Free from Contradictions, Preserved, Linguistic Superiority, Memorised, Scientific Accuracies , Historic Details, Prophecies
    III. Supernatural Quality – Challenge to produce something like it

Conclusion
Cannot be the work of a created being as it far surpasses anything known before or that has come after it. In it the Creator takes responsibility of having created everything, Calls Himself God, and details our purpose in Life and of a life after Death.

AGENTS
Did the book fall from the sky? Or appear out of the ground? No, it came by way of a Prophet from God. In much the same way that previous revelations came by the way of Prophets with a consistent message. Examples include Abraham, Moses Jesus & Muhammad (Peace be upon them all).

Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) claimed to be a prophet of God, the last of them and that the revelation known as Quran was revealed through him.

Show how he could not have been:
- A Liar – Since even his enemies called him the truthful & the trustworthy (Al-Ameen & As-Sadeeq). He was offered power, wealth and women to compromise his message; but rejected all.

Deluded – Refer to the Eclipse of the Sun, Quran revealed over 23 years, prophecies, triumphs and abilities**.**

Conclusion
So he must be speaking the truth – because he did not have the profile of a liar or a deluded person and most of all because the revelation confirms his claims.

DEATH
Inform the non-Muslim of the inevitable reality:
- Everyone dies.
- It's not what you are born on but what you die on that matters
- We need to act before death, not after it; as that will be too late.

ETERNITY
The afterlife is **Eternal** in comparison to the 70-100 years of worldly life. There can only be 2 possible outcomes:

1. We believe in God & live in accordance with His commands; an eternal afterlife of **Bliss** and **Heaven**
2. We disbelieve in God & live contrary to His commands; an eternal afterlife of **Torment** and **Hell**

Inform the Non-Muslim that it's not because you say so...But because the revelation from God says so. **Emphasise the QURAN**.

SHAHADA
It's now time to Earn your GRADES and go for the top mark!

A) Summary of Islam
    I. Overview of GRADES
    II. Basic Pillars/ Beliefs
    III. Purpose of our Lives
B) Two paths
    I. Heaven and Happiness or Hell and Torment
C) Inform them what is required to be a Muslim. Then inform them that they have the ingredients to be a Muslim.
D) Invite them to Islam
    - *"Why don't you testify out loud what you believe in your heart?"*
    - *"I'll walk you through it"*
    - *"You will be assured paradise, sins wiped clean good deeds carried forward"*
E) First in English and then repeat after me in Arabic

"I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is the slave and messenger of Allah"

Ash hadu An Laa ilaaha illa Allah Wa Ash hadu anna Muhammadan Abduhu Wa Rasuluh

AFTERCARE
Your job is to convey the message and Invite to Islam – The Guidance and therefore Shahada is from Allah alone.

1) Swap contact details – Name, Contact Number, Email etc
2) Teach them how to do Wudu/ Pray Salah
3) Get them in touch with Manchester New Muslims or their Local Mosques/ Imams.
4) Try to establish some social structure in their lives (Events, Meals, Jumu'ah, Eid etc)

<Additional Notes>

<Additional Notes>